

business with the reduced number of clerks at the shop as making an inventory.

As the first generic feature, there is provided a tele-inventory system for inventorying various kinds of commodities in a shop by an operator from a remote management apparatus that is installed remotely from the shop, comprising: at the shop camera means for taking images of object commodities to be inventoried; image-transmitter means for transmitting the taken images of the object commodities to the remote management apparatus; at the remote management apparatus image-receiver means for receiving the taken images of the object commodities from the image-transmitter means; and display means for displaying the taken images of the object commodities which images have been received by the image-receiver means, whereby the operator is able to make an inventory of the object commodities at the remote management apparatus with consulting the taken images of the object commodities which images have been displayed on the display means.

As a preferable feature, the tele-inventory system may further comprise: at the remote management apparatus instruction-transmitter means for transmitting instructions of the operator to the shop; and at the shop instruction-receiver means

for receiving the instructions of the operator from the remote management apparatus. As another preferable feature, the tele-inventory system may further comprise: at the shop camera control means
5 for controlling the camera means based on the instructions of the operator, which have been received by the instruction-receiver means.

As a second generic feature, there is provided an in-shop terminal for use in a tele-inventory
10 system in which various kinds of commodities in a shop are inventoried by an operator from a remote management apparatus that is installed remotely from the shop, there being installed at the shop camera means for taking images of object commodities in
15 the shop, comprising: image-transmitter means for transmitting the images of object commodities, which images have been taken by the camera means at the shop, to the remote management apparatus; instruction-receiver means for receiving
20 instructions of the operator from the remote management apparatus; and camera control means for controlling the camera means based on the instructions of the operator from the remote management apparatus which instructions have been
25 received by the receiving means.

As a third generic feature, there is provided a remote management apparatus for use in a

tele-inventory system in which various kinds of commodities in a shop are inventoried by an operator from the remote management apparatus, there being at the shop camera means for taking images of object commodities and image-transmitter means for transmitting the taken images of the object commodities to the remote management apparatus, comprising: image-receiver means for receiving the images of the object commodities, which images have been taken by the camera means of the shop, from the image-transmitter means of the shop; display means for displaying the taken images of the object commodities which images have been received by the image-receiver means; and instruction-transmitter means for transmitting instructions of the operator, which are for making an inventory of the object commodities in the shop, to the shop.

As mentioned above, it is possible for a tele-inventory system, and an in-shop terminal and a remote management apparatus for the system to guarantee the following advantageous results:

(1) Since an image of an object commodity which image has been taken in the shop is transferred to the remote management apparatus to be displayed the display means of the remote management apparatus, the operator that operates the remote management apparatus is able to make an inventory of the object